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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Membership

Representative Eddie Rodriguez



Biographical Information

Representative Eddie Rodriguez was born on July 1, 1971 in McAllen, Texas. He graduated from McAllen Memorial High School, and studied two years at St. Mary's University in San Antonio before transferring to the University of Texas at Austin. He received his B.A. in government from UT in 1995.

Representative Rodriguez worked in a group home which housed six people with mental retardation. He also coordinated political campaigns from Laredo to McAllen before he went on to become chief of staff for then State Representative Glen Maxey. As a capitol staffer he supervised over 330 pieces of legislation on issues relating to housing, education, transportation, economic development, and election law. Representative Rodriguez also served as the Executive Director of the Travis County Democratic Party.

Representative Rodriguez was one of only three freshman members elected by his peers to serve on the board of the Legislative Study Group - a coalition of moderate and progressive legislators who are dedicated to open and responsive government which is accountable to the people. Within the legislature, Representative Rodriguez is also a member of the Mexican American Legislative and the Democratic Caucuses.

Representative Rodriguez was appointed to the Economic Development and Judicial Affairs committees in his first term. During the 78th Legislative session Representative Rodriguez focused on environmental regulation, public education finance, election issues, and economic development/displacement issues in minority neighborhoods.

Representative Rodriguez authored the first legislation proposing a state personal income tax ever to be heard in a committee of the Texas

House. Under his plan, the proceeds of the tax would be dedicated to public education, guaranty fully equal funding for every public school, while abolishing the "Robin Hood" plan and cutting property taxes by more than half. He also proposed guidelines for the state's environmental regulation agency which would require penalties on polluters to match or exceed the profits achieved through their illegal activities.

Previous and current community organization memberships include:

- Saltillo Community Action Group
- Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Hispanic Institute for Technology Advancement, Member of the Board
- East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Leadership Team
- Animal Rescue
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Advisory Board Member
- Sierra Club
- Austin Women's Political Caucus
- Texas State Employees Union
- Women's Health Caucus

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